

## TAPPE INDEX

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INTERVIEWER

PLACE S.B. Hist. Museum

DATE Sept. 27, 1979

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Lecture by E.R.(Jim) Blakley  
Date: September 27, 1979  
Title: Santa Barbara Geography and Geology  
Transcriber: Phyllis Lotz  
Begin Tape 1, sidel

We will talk a little about our area.

Santa Barbara is unique because if you notice, the coast runs north and south until you reach Pt. Conception and then it turns and runs east and west, with the Pacific Ocean to the south. After Ventura, the coast runs south again. This is because our Mountains are are running east and west and this is called transvert ranges, because they run opposite to all other mountain ranges in California. This is very important to Santa Barbara County. Why did this happen?

Plate tecktonics is the reason the Santa Barbara area runs east and west. The Santa Ynez Mountains and Range and the San Rafael Mountains rose and turned. In between is the Santa Ynez River, about 75 miles long. The next big river is the sisquoc/ Manzanita Range and the Cuyama. These are the rivers that drain our county, and they all drain west.

Our area is this very small coastal area along the south coast that the early pioneers traveled as they came up the coast. They found most of the area hospitable except for the plains area of Santa Maria.

If you have ever been out in the middle of the ocean, you would see a trench, or slip in the earth, molten rock ozzes up out of the trench, shifting up and under each plate. The land skoots slowly for millions and millions of years, because what is happening is molten material is coming up and pushing both ways, under and over. We have a huge oceanic plate that is being pushed out across the county. This plate is causing the mainland to rise the mountians and pushes the land even higher.

In Santa Barbara something else is happening. The plate isn't going underneath, its going up. We have the Sierras, and others that have been pushed into our plate as it hits the continent. The San Andres Fault is separating the continental plate from the oceanic plate so we are not on the continent of North America but on the Oceanic Plate that is moving around. We are



heading for San Francisco. This happens about two inches a year. This plate and all the rock on the plate are going north and what do they hit? The San Bernardino Mountains, which is a big granite mountain area and we go sideways. The land is being pushed out toward Point Conception. So our mountain range has been moved out of their north-south movement and sent east and west. There are a tremendous number of earthquake faults. Because of all these faults there are a great number of earthquakes. If you were to stand on top of La Cumbre Peak, and look over our back door, to the north you would see the different sizes of rock, the different ages of material smashed over millions and millions of ages.

The Channel is the remains of what years ago was sediments coming down from Northern California over millions of years. And due to the Santa Ynez Fault, they are pushed up again. Remember all the strata remained flat. Mission Canyon has the best exposure of rock to be seen around, of the last two geological eras. Sandstone and other materials are still being washed down. Our area has changed a great deal. Back in the early days this area was a very wet rainy coastal forest. Like Ft. Bragg is now. Pines, Redwoods, and it has changed very rapidly. If one digs deep wells they can come upon logs of pine that lived in this area millions of years ago. It has changed to what is called the coastal plains. It was so long ago, it really does not mean anything to us today.

Big Pine Mountain is the center of our county, back in the San Rafael's and you can see the same pushing of the strata. Hell's Half Acre is unusual. It sits on top of the Sierra Madre Mts. This group of rock is very eroded sitting on top, and you can find sea shells on top of the mountains also. We have a great deal of sandstone in Santa Barbara, and it erodes and makes caves. On Figueroa Mt. looking west, you can see Zaca Lake. This area is interesting as you can see the strata going up and down. Looking north you can see Hurricane Deck, and the Sierra Madre Mts. This area is very valuable to us.

Then along came the early Spanish who came up the coast. There were very few of them and they made practically no trips into the Back Country. Later the Mexicans made a few trips. It was because they had too much to do along the coast to go exploring inland. A few of the Fathers made contact with the Inland Chu-



mash. The Mexican who came were miners from Sonora, and they were looking for minerals. They found very little wealth here. So the center of Santa Barbara County was a no mans land. The only mineral wealth is oil and gas.

The highest spot in the county is 6,800 ft. We go from a coastal plain all the way back(north) to pine forests in our county. And this is on top of Big Pine. The old timers went there to explore, and many would have their picture taken with the largest pine in the county. Lumber was scarce in Santa Barbara County. The Mission Fathers had lots of trouble getting lumber to the missions. Willows from San Marcos Pass were used to help bring timbers from the Back Country to the missions. It was an Indian Trail, very poor trail. Mission Pine Mt. was named by the old timers because they said large beams were cut on top of the mountain and brought to the Santa Barbara area.

You may have time to study the old street car line that ran up State St. and it was pulled by mule power. When the streetcars were electrified they pentioned off the old white mule called Maud. There was a big parade and she was pentioned off to nice pasture but the Forest Service ended up with Old Maud, and she spent the rest of her life plodding around all over the Back Country of Santa Barbara County.

Santa Barbara city was once a large grove of oak trees but they were cut down for buildings by the early settlers.

The mountain range is covered with chaparral, which consists of scrub oak, ceanothes, coyote brush, etc. Here in Santa Barbara County we could not exist without the Back Country and the water it provides. Gibraltar Dam is on Mono Creek and now the dam has silted up almost a mile, from all the erosion at the back of the lake. This is the main water source of Santa Barbara city. Over the top of the mountains the clouds drift and cool the area and provide moisture, but come winter time our rains begin to come from the north and the water drains into streams and rivers. All this generates in the Back Country and we would have no people here if it wasn't for water.

Once in awhile we have some snow in the mountains.

There is a camp called Bear Camp near the Sisquoc River and it got its name because of Jim Orr. He had a homestead there and went over to cut wood for the roof of his cabin and got snowed in. The homesteaders sometimes built dams and other buildings



to keep the water near their homes. They planted orchards and had vegetable gardens on their farms. Once in awhile if you hike in the Back Country you will come across one of these little homesteads that were abandoned in the later part of the 1800's. Also in the Back Country we are blessed with hot springs, and one of them is called Little Caliente Hot Springs.

We have talked about the mountains, the Santa Ynez River, Juncal Dam, Gibraltar Dam, and Cachuma, these are the main sources of water for this country. We have to draw our water from the other side of the mountains and this has been with us since the Presidio days. In those days they had the De la Guerra well, the original water source for the city. But they could not keep up with the growing population, and it did become contaminated. Then they tapped Mission Canyon Creek, and the Mission Water workks supplied the water. A man named Canfield bought the Mission Water Works and supplied water to the city.

In 1904 digging began for a tunnel through the mountains south near Tunnel Road.

The only natural lake in the county is Zaca Lake, west of Zaca Peak. The strata there stands on end and is Monterey Strata. Its soft and there are often landslides and that is what happened there many years ago. A landslide damned off this canyon and made the lake. A man named Libeu homesteaded this area. They later ran a guest lodge there and now it is a guest ranch. Homesteeaders Day will occur there on Nov. 10th. (in a photo) Here is the house of the Libeu and the flag is flying on the pole indicating that the ranger is at home. The ranger's territory was from Santa Ynez River to Cuyama, and he covered all that by horsback. These are pictures of different homesteads and forest rangers.

The man-made lakes of our area began with Juncal Dam on the Santa Ynez River, the first lake to supply water to Montecito. On down to Gibraltar Dam that supplied water to Santa Barbara beginning in 1913. Later there was a severe brush fire in that area and the lakes fullled in with silt, so they came back and raised the dam. Our raal problem is what is going to happen to Gibraltar and Santa Barbara. I feel that they made a mistake in not taking state water because it won't be long before the dam is



silted up and we could loose our water supply.

Another dam is on the Sisquoc and this one is unusual. It was built in 1909 and was built to force the water up and using a weir it supplied water to Sisquoc Ranch. This is a dam that not many people know about.

Our county is vegetated by grass lands and oak woodlands and pine trees, and right next to these areas are the chaparral lands. We are blessed with all these different areas that help keep the moisture in the land.

All along our coast in the early days were great areas of wild flowers but because of cattle grazing these areas have been lost. Fire is frightening to all people but it does clean out the under brush and help new growth to the forest and grass lands. There are a few trees that will only seed from having a fire go through this causes the seed to germinate.

In our Back Country we have an unusual occurance in that the lady bird come in to breed and there are millions and millions of them. They of course keep down the aphid population.

Man comes along bring in cattle and other things and this causes change. New seed, new live stock, and this upsets the balance of the grass lands. They brought in mustard and other plants so that the native flora and fauna changed. But things go on and things adapt.

The only poisonous snake we have in California is the rattlesnake. If one does not bother the snake he is not likely to harm you. Rock art is one of the Chumash people's rituals. They were coastal people but did venture into the Back Country to hunt and gather food, and they did some painting in caves. These caves were used for religious purposes. The Shamans painted the pictures. The colors were red, white and black. Painted Cave on San Marcos is one of these caves.

Davy Brown was one of the old timers of the Back Country. He moved into the area that is now named for him, Davy Brown Campground. It is a public camp. His cabin was used as a storehouse, as he did not live in it. (Photo) "The Blue Shirt" Brigade went back into the country in 1902 and camped in Davy Brown's cabin, two that are identified are E. Seldon Spaulding, and Donald Meyers. Most of the people going to live in the Back Country would go as far as they could by car or truck, then continue on by mule or horse and pack. These campers had problems